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Agriculture

Applicants for admission to the Agricultural College.

* 368 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many candidates applied for admission to the Agricultural College this year;

(*b*) whether all the applicants were asked to appear before the Selection Committee; and

(*c*) how many of them came for interview and what was the number of candidates that were finally selected?

A.—(*a*) Three hundred and twenty-one.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Two hundred and thirty-four and forty-five. The latter figure excludes the three seats reserved for failed students of the previous year's batch.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—" May I know, Sir, whether all the applicants were called for interview without any preliminary scrutiny having been made of the applications ? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" I want notice."

Age-limit for admission of students to the Agricultural College.

* 369 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there has been any age-limit for admission of students to the Agricultural College;

(*b*) whether agricultural graduates of above 25 years of age were being entertained in the Agricultural Department till last year and if so, what was the age bar provided for such appointments; and

(*c*) whether this year the Madras Services Commission has called for applications from candidates below 25 years for the posts of Agricultural Demonstrators?

A.—(*a*) Candidates must have attained the age of 17 at the time of joining College.

(*b*) Under Subsidiary Rule 8 to Fundamental Rule 10, no person whose age exceeds 25 years can be admitted in Government service without the sanction of the head of the department. This rule was embodied in the General Rules regulating the recruitment, condition of service, etc., of Subordinate Services issued in 1929, but the power of exemption exercised by heads of departments has since been withdrawn. These rules apply to the Madras Agricultural Subordinate Service.

(*c*) The Madras Services Commission called for applications from candidates born on or after 2nd October 1906.

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Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know whether, in view of the fact that students have undergone the course without knowing that this power of exemption will be withdrawn from the Heads of departments, Government propose to show any concession to such students? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan :—" I don't think so."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" May I know whether the Government have considered the advisability of raising the age of applicants from 25 to 27? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan :—" They have raised the age from 25 to 27."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" May I know then whether such of those as suffered from the age limitation, who have now been enabled to get into the selection, will also be given the chance of appearing before the Committee? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan :—" The matter is under consideration, Sir."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" May I know if the hon. the Minister is aware that the Services Commission have asked the applicants to see them on the 4th of next month? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan :—" If Government come to a decision before that, perhaps the Commission will be informed."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" May I know if the Government will consider the advisability of postponing the selection till all the applicants who are eligible can also be called and then holding a general selection? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan :—" The matter is under consideration."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" Will the Government consider it favourably? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan :—" No undertaking can be given, but they will consider the question."

" Activated Sludge " experiments in the Government Central Farm Estate, Coimbatore.

* 370 *Q.*—Mr. M. D. T. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) how long ago and under whose initiative the " Activated Sludge " experiments were started in the Government Central Farm Estate, Coimbatore;

(*b*) what was the capital outlay on the plant;

(*c*) whether any, and what, royalty has been paid or included in the cost;

(*d*) to what country the patent rights belong;

(*e*) what is the nature and cost of construction of buildings and accessories that have been provided;